

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1.-18. (canceled)
19. (previously presented) An immune adjuvant composition comprising
 - (a) a saponin possessing immune adjuvant activity, wherein the saponin is derived from *Quillaja saponaria*; and
 - (b) an immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprising at least one unmethylated CpG dinucleotide,
wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide is not a part of a DNA vaccine vector.
20. (canceled)
21. (previously presented) The immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 19, wherein the saponin comprises a substantially pure saponin.
22. (previously presented) The immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 21, wherein the substantially pure saponin comprises QS-7, QS-17, QS-18, or QS-21.
23. (previously presented) The immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 22, wherein the substantially pure saponin comprises QS-21.
24. (previously presented) The immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 19, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprises a CpG motif comprising more than one unmethylated CpG dinucleotide.
25. (previously presented) The immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 19, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprises one or more phosphate-modified nucleotides.
26. (previously presented) The immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 25, wherein at least one of the one or more phosphate-modified nucleotides is a phosphorothioate modified nucleotide.
27. (previously presented) The immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 19, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprises a CpG motif having

the formula 5'X₁CGX₂3', wherein X₁ is adenine, guanine, or thymine, and X₂ is cytosine, thymine, or adenine.

28. (previously presented) The immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 27, wherein the CpG motif comprises TCTCCCAGCGTGCGCCAT (SEQ ID NO:1).

29.-62. (canceled)

63. (previously presented) An immune adjuvant composition comprising

(a) a saponin possessing immune adjuvant activity, wherein the saponin is derived from *Quillaja saponaria*; and

(b) an immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprising at least one unmethylated CpG dinucleotide,

wherein the saponin comprises substantially pure QS-7, QS-17 or QS-18.

64. (previously presented) A method for inducing the immune response in an individual to an antigen comprising administering to the individual an amount of the immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 63 effective to induce the immune response, and wherein said individual is administered a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the antigen.

65. (previously presented) An immune adjuvant composition comprising

(a) a saponin possessing immune adjuvant activity, wherein the saponin is derived from *Quillaja saponaria*; and

(b) an immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprising at least one unmethylated CpG dinucleotide,

wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprises one or more phosphate-modified nucleotides.

66. (previously presented) The immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 65, wherein at least one of the one or more phosphate-modified nucleotides is a phosphorothioate modified nucleotide.

67. (previously presented) A method for inducing the immune response in an individual to an antigen comprising administering to the individual an amount of the immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 65 effective to induce the immune response, and wherein said individual is administered a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the antigen.

68. (previously presented) A method for inducing the immune response in an individual to an antigen comprising administering to the individual an amount of the immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 66 effective to induce the immune response, and wherein said individual is administered a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the antigen.

69. (previously presented) An immune adjuvant composition comprising
(a) a saponin possessing immune adjuvant activity, wherein the saponin is derived from *Quillaja saponaria*; and
(b) an immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprising at least one unmethylated CpG dinucleotide,
wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprises
TCTCCCAGCGTGCGCCAT (SEQ ID NO:1).

70. (previously presented) A method for inducing the immune response in an individual to an antigen comprising administering to the individual an amount of the immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 69 effective to induce the immune response, and wherein said individual is administered a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the antigen.

71. (previously presented) An immune adjuvant composition comprising
(a) a saponin possessing immune adjuvant activity, wherein the saponin is derived from *Quillaja saponaria*; and
(b) an immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprising at least one unmethylated CpG dinucleotide,
wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprises
TCCATGACGTTCTGACGTT (SEQ ID NO:2).

72. (previously presented) A method for inducing the immune response in an individual to an antigen comprising administering to the individual an amount of the immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 71 effective to induce the immune response, and wherein said individual is administered a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the antigen.

73. (previously presented) An immune adjuvant composition comprising
(a) a saponin possessing immune adjuvant activity, wherein the saponin is

derived from *Quillaja saponaria*; and

(b) an immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprising at least one unmethylated CpG dinucleotide, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide is 4-40 bases in length.

74. (previously presented) A method for inducing the immune response in an individual to an antigen comprising administering to the individual an amount of the immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 73 effective to induce the immune response, and wherein said individual is administered a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the antigen.

75. (previously presented) An immune adjuvant composition comprising

(a) a saponin possessing immune adjuvant activity, wherein the saponin (i) is derived from *Quillaja saponaria* and (ii) is a chemically modified saponin; and

(b) an immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprising at least one unmethylated CpG dinucleotide.

76. (previously presented) A method for inducing the immune response in an individual to an antigen comprising administering to the individual an amount of the immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 75 effective to induce the immune response, and wherein said individual is administered a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the antigen.

77. (previously presented) The composition of claim 19, wherein the saponin is a chemically modified saponin.

78. (previously presented) The immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 27, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprises a CpG motif comprising TCCATGACGTTCTGACGTT (SEQ ID NO:2).

79.-89. (canceled)

90. (previously presented) A method for inducing the immune response in an individual to an antigen comprising administering to the individual an amount of the immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 19 effective to induce the immune response, and wherein said individual is administered a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the antigen.

91. (canceled)

92. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 90, wherein the saponin comprises a substantially pure saponin.

93. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 92, wherein the substantially pure saponin comprises QS-7, QS-17, QS-18, or QS-21.

94. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 93, wherein the substantially pure saponin comprises QS-21.

95. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 90, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprises a CpG motif comprising more than one unmethylated CpG dinucleotide.

96. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 90, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprises one or more phosphate-modified nucleotides.

97. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 96, wherein at least one of the one or more phosphate-modified nucleotides is a phosphorothioate modified nucleotide.

98. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 90, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprises a CpG motif having the formula 5'X₁CGX₂3', wherein X₁ is adenine, guanine, or thymine, and X₂ is cytosine, thymine, or adenine.

99. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 98, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprising a CpG motif comprising TCTCCCAGCGTGCGCCAT (SEQ ID NO:1) or TCCATGACGTTTCCTGACGTT (SEQ ID NO:2).

100. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 90, wherein the individual is an animal.

101. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 100, wherein the animal is a mammal.

102. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 101, wherein the individual is a human.

103. (previously presented) An immune adjuvant composition comprising

- (a) a saponin possessing immune adjuvant activity, wherein the saponin is derived from *Quillaja saponaria*;
- (b) an immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprising at least one unmethylated CpG dinucleotide; and
- (c) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an antigen, wherein the nucleotide sequence is operatively linked to a promoter,

wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide is not a part of the nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence encoding the antigen.

104. (canceled)

105. (previously presented) The immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 103, wherein the saponin comprises a substantially pure saponin.

106. (previously presented) The immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 105, wherein the substantially pure saponin comprises QS-7, QS-17, QS-18, or QS-21.

107. (previously presented) The immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 106, wherein the substantially pure saponin comprises QS-21.

108. (previously presented) The immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 103, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprises a CpG motif comprising more than one unmethylated CpG dinucleotide.

109. (previously presented) The immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 103, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprises one or more phosphate-modified nucleotides.

110. (previously presented) The immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 109, wherein at least one of the one or more phosphate-modified nucleotides is a phosphorothioate modified nucleotide.

111. (previously presented) The immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 103, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprises a CpG motif having the formula 5' X_1 CG X_2 3', wherein X_1 is adenine, guanine, or thymine, and X_2 is cytosine, thymine, or adenine.

112. (previously presented) The immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 111, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprises a CpG motif comprising TCTCCCAGCGTGCGCCAT (SEQ ID NO:1) or TCCATGACGTTTCCTGACGTT (SEQ ID NO:2).

113. (previously presented) The method of any of claims 64, 67, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, or 90, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the antigen is administered to the individual within 2 days of said administering of the immune adjuvant composition.

114. (previously presented) The method of claim 113, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encoding the antigen is administered to the individual concurrently with the immune adjuvant composition.

115.-116. (canceled)

117. (new) An adjuvant composition comprising a QS21 and an immunostimulatory oligonucleotide containing an unmethylated CpG dinucleotide.

118. (new) An adjuvant composition according to claim 117 further comprising a carrier.

119. (new) An adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 117, wherein said immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprises a CpG motif having the formula 5'X₁CGX₂3', wherein X₁ is adenine, guanine, or thymine, and X₂ is cytosine, thymine, or adenine.

120. (new) An adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 117, wherein said immunostimulatory oligonucleotide is selected from the group comprising: TCCATGACGTTTCCTGACGTT (SEQ ID NO:1) and TCTCCCAGCGTGCGCCAT (SEQ ID NO:2).

121. (new) An adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 118, wherein said carrier is selected from the group comprising a capsule, liquid solution, suspension or elixir for oral administration, or a sterile liquid such as a solution or suspension.

122. (new) An immunogenic composition comprising an adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 117 or 118, further comprising an antigen.

123. (new) An immunogenic composition as claimed in claim 122, wherein said antigen is derived from an organism selected from the group comprising: Human Immunodeficiency Virus, Hepatitis B virus, Influenza virus, Mycobacteria, or Plasmodium.

124. (new) An immunogenic composition as claimed in claim 122 wherein the vaccine is administered systemically.

125. (new) An immunogenic composition as claimed in claim 122 wherein the vaccine is administered mucosally.

126. (new) An adjuvant composition according to claim 117 or 118, wherein QS21 is in the form of a capsule, liquid solution, suspension or elixir for oral administration, or a sterile liquid such as a solution or suspension.